voluntary organisations in North-Eastern Region are given financial assistance for undertaking educational as well as vocational training to the disabled.

**Backlog of Vacancies for the Physically Handicapped Persons**

2200. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any backlog of vacancies for the handicappes persons in the Central Government offices, Central Public Sector undertakings and nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to conduct special Recruitment Drive by the Staff Selection Commission for recruiting these physically handicapped persons; and

(d) if so, the details therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the available information 399 group 'C' posts and 233 group 'D' posts reserved for handicapped persons are lying vacant as on 1-7-1992 in various Ministries|Departments and Public Sector Undertakings.

(c) and (d) Special Recruitment Drives were undertaken in 1987, 1988 and 1990 to fill up the backlog of vacancies reserved for visual and hearing handicapped for group 'C' and 'D' posts. This is a continuous process and Special Recruitment Drives for handicapped persons are conducted from time to time.

**Setting up of an Artificial Limb Manufacturing Centre in A.P.**

2201. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the demand of aids and appliances for the physically handicapped persons per annum;

(b) whether Government are in a position to meet the demand;

(c) what is the number of companies which the manufacturing these appliances together with the details of appliances being made;

(d) whether there is any proposal to establish an artificial limb manufacturing centre in Andhra Pradesh;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) No precise estimate of the aids and appliances is readily available. However in the year 1992-93 the Government of India, under the scheme, provided aids|appliances to 70,000 (approx.), such handicapped persons through the Implementing Agencies.

(b) Yes, at the last years' level.

(c) ALIMCO, Kanpur is the only Public Sector Company under the Administrative Control of this Ministry and following products are manufactured for the handicapped persons :

(i) Lower Extremity Orthotics.

(ii) Upper Extremity Orthotics

(iii) Lower Extremity Prosthetics

(iv) Upper Extremity Prosthetics

(v) Rehabilitation Aids.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

**Expenditure on Minority Commission**

2202. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL : Willl the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent during the year 1991-92 and 1992-93 on Minority Commission together with the details; and